

Remarks

Claims 1 and 7 are amended to correct a typo (GDF) which should have been "GFP", which however was not noticed heretofore.

The Advisory Action dated April 14, 2006 makes it clear that the claims have been examined based upon the words "gas filled panel", which may be any panel having gas in it, rather than GFP, as defined in the specification. However, the term "gas filled panel" is not used in the claim. Therefore, the actual claims have not been examined.

Rather, the meaning of "GFP" has to be determined from the specification. This is as set forth in lines 2-9 on page 7 and quoted in the previous response to the Final Rejection.

The paragraph on page 7 has been amended to make it clear that "GFP is defined herein as...." The claim cannot be infringed unless someone utilizes a "high molecular weight, low thermal conductivity gas within a hermetic polymer film bag 64 to provide extraordinary thermal insulation,...." and so forth.

Similarly, the description of a VIP on pages 5 and 6 has been amended to make it clear that "VIP is defined herein...." The claims cannot be infringed without a VIP which consists "of a filler material 60 called a 'core' that is encapsulated in a barrier film 61, which may be plastic, or may be plastic film which is sputter coated with thin metal film, or may be an aluminum or other metal thin film reinforced by plastic film laminations on each side with the barrier film evacuated to a pressure..."


Claim 1 cannot be infringed if there is not a defined VIP, a defined GFP, or a double wall forming a chamber which is either evacuated or filled with a low thermal conductivity gas. Claim 5 cannot be infringed if the end plate is not insulated by a defined VIP, a defined GFP, or a hollow chamber containing either a vacuum or a low thermal conductivity gas.

Claim 7 cannot be infringed unless there is a reactant gas manifold which includes either a single wall with a defined VIP or a defined GFP disposed inside or outside the single wall, or a double wall forming a chamber with the chamber housing a vacuum, or a low thermal conductivity gas, or a defined VIP, or a defined GFP.

Since the prior art does not disclose a fuel cell system insulated by VIPs or GFPs as defined in the specification, or by hollow panels which are evacuated or filled with low thermal conductivity gas, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

Should the foregoing not be persuasive in any respect, a telephone call is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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